

**While meeting local, state and national curriculum needs, Census in Schools helps students learn what a census is and why it's important to them, their families and the community.**

# **The Census Goes to School**

## **A Guide for Educators and Community Leaders**

*The Census in Schools Project, "Making Sense of Census 2000," offers educators the opportunity to acquire colorful, hands-on, high-interest, grade-level appropriate lessons to help introduce students to Census 2000. Scholastic Inc., a publisher of educational materials for more than 75 years, was selected to develop and disseminate these materials for the Census Bureau.*

### **The Census in Schools Project Strives to:**

- Help students learn what a census is and why it's important to them, their families and the community.
- Increase participation in Census 2000 by engaging parents through schools and through the active involvement of children and teens.
- Galvanize students, teachers and families to support Census 2000.
- Recruit teachers and parents to work as census takers and in other support jobs.

### **Tools for the Teacher:**

Teachers in all public, private, Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal schools will have the opportunity to use "Making Sense of Census 2000," a series of teaching materials developed for the Census Bureau by Scholastic to help educate students and their families about Census 2000. The Census in Schools Project includes the following materials:

- Teachers' kits for grades K-4, 5-8 and 9-12.
- A principal's kit.
- A class set of student take-home guides, with a short teacher lesson guide and a letter to the parents encouraging them to participate and respond to Census 2000.
- Materials for children enrolled in Head Start and their parents.
- A booklet for use in adult ESL, citizenship and literacy classes.

### **How Teachers Obtain Teaching Materials:**

- By April 15, 1999, teachers (elementary and secondary social studies and math) in 40 percent of the nation's schools will receive information about the Census in Schools Project with invitations to order teaching kits.
- Principals of the remaining schools will receive a teaching kit to distribute to teachers, along with information for ordering additional kits and instructions on downloading Census in Schools materials from the Internet.
- All education materials will be available on the Internet. Visit the Census Bureau's web page at <[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)>. Click on Census 2000 and Census in Schools.
- Information will also be distributed to educators at conferences and through education association newsletters and journals.

### **An Equal Opportunity Employer**

U.S. Census Bureau, *the Official Statistics*™



United States  
**Census  
2000**

## The census is how America knows what America needs!

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573

Boston 617-424-4977

Charlotte 704-344-6624

Chicago 312-353-9759

Dallas 214-655-3060

Denver 303-231-5029

Detroit 248-967-9524

Kansas City 816-801-2020

Los Angeles 818-904-6522

New York City 212-620-7702  
or 212-620-7703

Philadelphia 215-597-8312

Seattle 206-553-5882

### Educators and Community Leaders Can Contribute by:

- Encouraging local school systems to use "Making Sense of Census 2000" during the coming year.
- Promoting "Making Sense of Census 2000" to:
  - ✓ Social studies, math and elementary teachers.
  - ✓ Head Start instructors.
  - ✓ Teachers of American Indian and Alaska Native children, migrant children and adults, adult ESL and GED students and citizenship students.

### Each Teacher's Kit Includes:

- **Introductory Letter** — Describes Census 2000 and the education project.
- **Teaching Guide** — 24-pages of census-related, grade-range, specific lesson plans that comply with national standards.
- **Giant Wall Map** — A 4 X 6-foot wall map showing the United States population.

### Each Principal's Kit Contains:

- **Letter to Teachers** — A reproducible letter for principals to distribute to teachers, explaining the critical role that the census plays in allocating resources for schools and describing the teaching materials.
- **Power of the Census Poster** — For display in the school lobby or hallway, this poster promotes the importance of the Census and tells why it's important for everyone in the community to fill in and return their Census 2000 questionnaire.
- **Teacher Flyer** — This reproducible flyer can be placed in teachers' mailboxes or posted in the teachers' rooms.
- **Supplemental Letters** — A reproducible letter in various languages, promoting the value of an accurate census to non-English speaking parents.
- **Parent's Association Promotional Guide** — A four-page reproducible guide designed as a quick and easy reminder to help principals inform members of the schools' PTA or PTO and other community groups, of the importance of Census 2000.

### When Will Materials Be Available?

**March 1999:** The Census Bureau will launch the Census in Schools Project and teachers will begin receiving invitations to order materials. Teaching materials available on the Internet.

**January 2000:** Principal kits will be mailed.

**March 2000:** Take-home materials will be mailed to teachers.

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### This Is Your Future. Don't Leave It Blank.

Census 2000 will help decision-makers understand which neighborhoods need new schools and which ones need greater services for the elderly. But they won't be able to tell what communities need if people don't fill out their census forms and mail them back.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share answers with others, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison and \$5,000 in fines. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust. Answering the census is safe and important.

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